

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Red Cross has been at the forefront of the efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters with caring volunteers who freely give their time and talent to relieve the distress of others; and

WHEREAS, the deadly and devastating natural disasters of 2005, including a tsunami that spanned thousands of miles and an ocean and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma that destroyed communities and uprooted families, presented unprecedented challenges as Red Cross volunteers worked with compassion to help our neighbors near and far; and

WHEREAS, along with last year's major tragedies, the American Red Cross responded to 1,887 local emergencies across the Palmetto State, assisted over 14,000 military families, provided lifesaving skills training such as CPR and first aid to 121,518 people, and collected approximately 115,000 units of blood products to help save the lives of the sick and injured, reaching out to bring aid, information, and comfort to neighbors in need; and

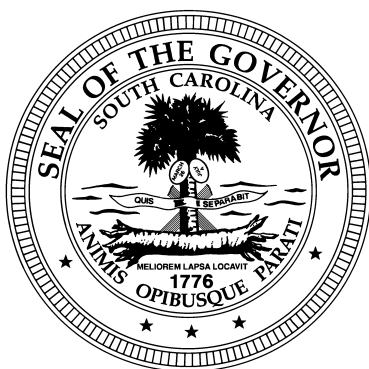
WHEREAS, with over 15,000 South Carolina volunteers and a dedicated family of blood donors who selflessly give the gift of life, the American Red Cross provides valuable tools and education to individuals, families, workplaces, and schools, helping make our communities stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 125th anniversary of the American Red Cross and its volunteer efforts to help prevent and ease suffering among all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2006 as

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the Red Cross and recognize its contributions to making our state and nation stronger, safer and healthier.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA